Extremities

Vrging the Lord Generall Sir *Fra: Veare* to the Anti-parle with the *Archduke* Albertus. *Written by an Englisſh Gentleman of* verie good account from Oſtend, to a worſhipfull *Gentleman his friend heere in England, Imprinted Verbatim* according to the Originall.

With a declaration of the deſpe-*rate attempt made ſince, by the ſayde Arch-*dukes forces, for the winning of *the ould Towne.*

Printed for *Thomas Pauyer.*
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Extremities preſſing the Lord Generall ſir Frauncis Veare, *to offer the* late Antiparle to the Archduke *Albertus*.

NOt doubting but your Worſhip hath heard of our late anti-parle with the Archduke *Albertus* heare in Oſtend, which I aſſure my ſelfe is of many wõdred at, and againe, knowing that no ſmall number will iudge thereof, ſome according to their vnderſtandinges, and other ſome as they are carried with affection. I haue thought good to aduertiſe you of the verie truth thereof, for your worſhips ſatisfaction, and better contentment of all Gentlemen to whome it ſhall pleaſe your worſhip to impart the ſame, wherein I aſſure you I haue plainely and faithfully ſet downe the truth without all fauour or affection, as hereafter followeth.

HIs Lordſhip hauing by many Letters for the ſpace of two Moneths together, ſolicited the States to reenforce him with freſh ſupplies of men, was ſtill anſwered again with hopefull promiſes, meane time his troupes in towne were generally harrazed & worne out, eſpecially ỹ Engliſh by guarding & watching in the workes without the Towne euery ſecond night for the ſpace of ſixe Moneths togither, their durtie paſſage thither, and

their myzie guardes there, infecting them dayly with increase of sickneſſe, ſo as by diſeaſes and other accidents of warre, he had not remaining at the time of the Parley begun, being on Sonday night the 13 of December after the old ſtile, of 8000 ſoldiers and vpwards, 2150: and ſuch as know Oſtend as it is now, and haue withal any iudgment in martiall affaires, can diſcerne that the Towne alone cannot bee ſufficiently guarded with 3000 men, leauing out of this computation the outward workes and moſt part of the Counterſcarps, which are indeed principall pillars of ſafetie to this place.

Againe the fury of the ſea had ſo demoliſhed the Rampart of the Towne, that the ſame lay very weake and open in many places for the Enemies paſſage. And (notwithſtanding that good indeauours had ben vſed, and much coſt beſtowed to ſecure vs againſt both theſe dangers, by ſtore of long greene Riſe-wood lodged in a pile at the North-weſt end of the Hawx bray, (the ſupport of the foot of the bulwarke called the Sandhill) and of like wood platted along the foote of the Sandhill to the ſea-ward, faſtned (beſides the workmans arte) with great ſtones, and well lined with ſundry ranks of Pallizadoes armed with long and ſtrong nailes of Iron) yet did the Enemy in the darkneſs of a boyſtrous night at a low water, ſo artificially, and with ſuch expedition put fire to the ſame pile, entertaining our guards a good diſtance from thence, towards the North-eaſt part of the old Towne with an alarum, in the meane time that few enclined their eyes to this fiery buſines, vntill the fire had fully embraced the ſame pile. This alarum being (to ſay truth) coldly taken, the enemie followed his point till they came to the place of our new Haven, being neare the North-eaſt raueling, and there finding the paſſage to enter open and no apparance of reſiſtance, they entred, and comming to a Corps du guard, they found one onely drowſey bird in the neſt whom they killed, the reſt being ſhamefully fled after their wonted maner: yet I forbeare to name my Nation, Euphonia gratia.

In the heate of this buſines, his Lordſhip ſlenderly accompanied, fell vpon the ſkirt of all the place where the enemies were, and being with much difficultie perſwaded to ſtay his

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further progresse, till discouerie might be made before him, much troubled with feare of treason hee sent away Captaine Studder Commander of his owne companie, with one Maister Greuill, Maister Tredcastle, and some one or two priuate men besides These stumbled vpon the enemie, against whome making a countenance of a charge by their voyces, Sa, Sa, &c. put them to retire to the sands by the same way they entred wher by it may be conceiued they had full view of our new Hauen, there they perceiuing the fewnes of those that pursuet them, turned head, and with a Musket, shot Captaine Studder thorough the arme, and then made away, none of ours in case to follow thē, by reason of their Cauallary, wherof we haue none in towne had this error bēn committed by any English Commander, I durst haue aduentured to haue made an Almanack of his end.

This fire burned outragiously for the spatie of dayes & nights without ceasing, viz. frō Thursday night, till Sonday night, neyther could our soldiers come well to quench it, the enemies Cannon still giuing against them, when they offred thēselues thereto, neither could the billowes of the sea, waxing at euery tide far aboue the height of the fire extinguish the same. For it had gotten passage into the ground, and there found matter of continuall nourishment, by such timber & posts as were lodged there, for ẏ support of the sote of the piece, & though it had bēn quenched sundry times yet doth it burst out again, & on Tewsday last I saw it burne againe my selfe. Our chiefest enginors are of opinion that the sand heated with such extremity, by furie of the fire in the pile of Rise, is the chiefest cause of the long continuance thereof, by this fire the Faur bray, and the side of the Sandhill lying towards the sea, were both laid open again to the mercy of all weathers and violence of the enemies, in far worse sort then it was before, and this was another instance of inducement, &c.

Another is, & that not ẏ least passage to alow for his L. was, we were & are stil many contrary nations in towne, English, French, Scots, Wallons, & Duch, and therby a hotch-pot of cōtrary & dissonant humors. A natural instinct as ẏ world knoweth hauing disioyntment of affections, yet hitherto wee haue had good

harmonie, & by his Lordships well tempered commaund, all humors well tuned, neuertheleſſe ſince the enemie had formerly bæn practiſing by ſowing of factions amongſt vs, his L. to preuent the worſt, layd theſe reaſons as one ſtep to his proiect.

Further his Lordſhip had 4 little fortreſſes called Reddotts in hand at the ſame time vpon the Rampart of the old towne, for the better ſecuring thereof with few men if the enemy ſhold attempt vs, for thoſe little ſkonſes would haue bæn their ſcourges vpon their entrie, (ech on flanking other) & one guardable againſt their furie with few men, for beſides their Ramparts they now are fenced about with heighty and very ſtrong pallizadoes, theſe begun workes lay open and nothing neare finiſhed, and this was another branch of his Lordſhips feares.

After al theſe cõmeth the maine which was, as his Lordſhip was certainly enformed, that the Archduke was reſolued that night to attempt vs in manner following, viz. The counte de Bukquoy, who commaundeth the forces on the Eaſt-ſide of the towne, was to giue onſet at the North-eaſt raueling of the old towne vpon a low water which ſerued that time exceeding wel for their purpoſe falling out about 6 of the clocke at night.

Then from the Weſt they purpoſed to trie vs by the Sandhill, and in two places more of the old Towne viz. the port dupied which is a ſmal raueling in a counterſcarp, lying Weſt North-weſt from the towne, and is indæd a place of great inport for the kæping of the Towne-dich full with water, and to preuent the enemies paſſage to ſcape our maine Rampart, and this place by furie of the ſea, and rage of their Cannon, lay then mærely open and not tenable by any meanes.

Their other places where to come on, were our outward works, lying South and by Weſt from the towne, called the South ſquare, the Poulder and the Weſt ſquare, from which laſt worke commonly called the Collonels worke, they had about 3 wækes before bæne gallantly repulſed in the night by our guardants, being all Engliſh, and driuen to returne with farre leſſe bloud, then they brought thither.

Another reaſon which was very powerfull with his Lordſhip, was a noble & religious care and ſence to ſpare the effuſiõ

of

of so much Christian blood as in all likelyhood, (if the enemie had assaied to carrie vs, by the resolued furie) must haue bæne shed on both sides.

Inuested with these extreames of impendant dangers, his Lordship after many bitter trauerses through his great hart ỳ scornes to stoope, to the mightiest enemy whosoeuer, found that neuertheleſſe the best, & most assured passage to general safetie, was to temporize with the enemie by a parley, for dolus an virtus quis in hoste requirat, till the finishing of his works in hand, and the arriuall of his succours howrely expected, might settle him againe in tearmes of better assurance.

But by the way, I had forgotten to tell you sir, that vppon prælocūsultation, al our outward works aboue mentioned, were to be abandoned, & all our men drawne into the towne, and so they were, for as I sayde before, the paucitie of our numbers was such as came farre short of a proportionable guard for the town alone, yet through the slacknes of the states, his Lordship had formerly bæn driuen to extenuate his sayd works to halfe their greatnes, to make them guardable by few men, for they doe much import the safetie of the towne.

Nowe sir, to lay our weaknes thus open to the enemie, to his so great aduantage and incouragment, and notwithstanding to bee little or nothing secured thereby, what a gaule and excrutiament it might be to his L. those that know the temper of his spirit, can easily coniecture.

So summoning as I sayd in sort before, all his considerations together, he fled to that refuge necessitie shewed him to be the most assured. And hereupon called all his Captaines of the seuerall nations togither, or so many of them as were not in guard, the time would endure no delay. This being towards euening on the Sonday formerly mentioned, they all hearing his conceipt, applaude it, and the Netherlanders more forward then all the rest doe almost presse him with importunities to diligent the execution thereof, offring themselues to be agents therein, but thranke in the wetting immediatly: which coldnes & refusall of theirs, had almost quite vntwisted the clew of their late resolution. In the ende Captaine Ogle

Lieutenant Collonel to his Lordship, and Capt. Fairfax are destined to bee the men, as Hostages onely for such as the Archduke should send hither to treate with his Lordship.

And so immediately upon sound of one of our Drummes from the port Dupied, after losse of some breath by Capt. Ogle who was unheard, called to them a good space in Spanish from thence, they were roused to attention: being (as was conjectured) busie about their enterprise, and so, not so attentive as it is like otherwise they would have bæn, considering how neare and dangerous neighbours we are one to the other.

All this tedious discourse, I haue bæn bould to trouble your Worshippe withall, onely as a lanthorne to giue you the best light I could, for the through understanding of our estats euery way, and now I will bring the acting of this project before you upon the stage, beseeching your pardon if I shall sæme tarable for idle lightnes, by inserting accidentall iests in a subiect of such weight and seriousnes: for many times, Ducunt et scria nuga.

His Lordship as I haue before declared, hauing made tender of his harsh talking parley, I name it harsh in regard of his constraint, thereto finding the enemie verie tractable, and exceeding prompt to entertaine the same, did without any losse of time the same euening send away to them the two fore-named Captaines, Ogle and Fairfax, upon faith guien for their safetie and returne. A truce and generall cessation of all hostilitie on both sides being promised during the time of their treatie for land matters, but no further. Hereby our abandoned workes remained neutrall, although quited by us, yet not lawfull to be possessed by the. Upon the arriuall of our Hostages in the enemies armie, they were brought to his Alteße at his skonse of Albertus, he for welcome bailed his hat sparingly, bad them welcome, demaunded of what nation they were, whether they had instructiõ from our Generall, to treate with him about this place, and upon their answere thereto negatiuely, he asked them further if there were not fraude intended. They answere as Ignorants of any, & that they are onely sent as hostages for such as his highnes should please to send

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to his Lordship about the proposed busines: and so with a second, but more slender respect with his Hat, they were carried from his presence to the lodging of Don Augustino de messia, a gray and graue headed Spanyard Gouernour of the Castle of Antwarp, chiefe Commaunder of the Archdukes forces at ẏ west-end of this town, a gentlemā of most accōplisht vertues, by their applauses: in the chamber of this youthfull old gallant (for to his gray head hee weareth a greene habite) they were lodged, the place being beautified with faire hangings and reciprocall correspondent in the rest. By all the gallants, Spaniards, Italians, and whosoeuer else of other nations of any respect, they were entertained, and courted by turnes, and hauing withall many watchfull eies, and listning eares on them: but the gentlemē both of them, haue been so well bred and are so well qualified, that neither of them will easily open way by any vnaduisednes for taxation of vndiscretion, marie they were not suffred to haue further view of any worke, or way, then where they passed, neither were they free of a watchfull guard ouer them.

Whilest these flourishes of hostile courtesie increased (no doubt wᵗ hope of a speedie good bargaine) & smiles vpon our Capt. in the enemies Campe, one Matheo Serano Gouernor of Sluise, Generall of the Archdukes artillerie, and one of his Counsell of warre, together with one Matheo Anthonias Sargent maior to Simon Anthuzino gouernour of Antwerp towne, both Spaniards and men of prompt and smart spirittes, and Judiciall reach, came into the towne, but his Lordship proiecting still the meanes to winne time, and how to entertaine delaies, did as was imagined (vpon ẏ approach of the two Spaniards) attended ouer the water at west, with about 60 horse, cause an alarum to be taken, for hee stoode where he saw them all plainely, and layd hold on the manner of their comming for his aduantage, charging them with breach of promise, and other soulder-like taxations, and so would neither speake with them, nor see them, but gaue peremptorie commaunde, that they should be forthwith returned back, thereupon they were conducted back to the place where they came ouer, but the sea

He tould his titles himselfe at table.

 being

being growne which his Lordship knewe well inough, denyed them passage, and thereupon backe againe into the towne they came fraught with new hopes of better intertainm ēt (ẏ heate of their desire fæling vp the eyes of their iudgment) his L. being aduertised hereof, gaue present order they should be sent away by the East.

Now sir you may please to know that Serano being scarce well pleased (not withstanding the large walke betwæne the skonse Albertus, and their trenches) grewe somewhat wearie, and desired to stay in towne all night, but that would not bee graunted, and so the Sergiant Maior of the towne (Captaine Carpenter by name, and one Captaine Cleere a Scotish man) conuoyde them through the towne, with euery stepp vp the knæs (at least) in durte and myre, so as the tired Spaniard began to endure a breach in his pacience vpon the Spanish bulwark, which lyeth at the East-end of the towne, a speciall Maguzine of durte and myres, standing vp to the knæs, he desired some Tobacco for his refreshing, exclaiming in French, Ah la mechant vil'e de Ostend, but in stead thereof (because there was none to be had) he, and his associates were presented with 4 potts of good English Bære, which went downe merilie, and so throughly be-durted, they were brought to the Sentinell of Cauallarie on the East-sands, and out of their extreames and myrie wearines, they lodged at East all night, with Count De Bucquoy, not being able to recouer the Archdukes quarter before the next day at Nowne. And hereby so much time was gotten.

After the returne of the two Spaniards to their Duke, the same men were againe appointed to trie his Lordshippe once more, and sending word ouer to vs thereof, were admitted to come, (our Captaines all this while remaining with them vpon faith giuen as aforesayd.) The Sergiant Maior of the towne demaunding which way he should bring them in, his Lordshippe willed him to guide them where they might come soft enough, for feare of embossing their fæt on the hard stones: Saying withall, that besides their durtie walke, they should

come

come to as cold a bargaine as euer they met wal in their liues.

Vppon their entrie (which was vpon Monday night) they were directly brought to his Lordship, being in his Chamber, after enterchange of complements, his Lordship began his excuse for the rudenes he had committed the night before, confessing he had ben vnciuill, charging (neuertheleſſe the occasion thereof vpon their ſtrange manner of comming ouer, and so according to the Law of Bearne which is Que le batu payera L'Amende, they were plagued and muſt beſides confeſſe themſelues worthy thereof.

They being hot on the cheſt, ſeem eaſily to digeſt that, & ſay, now they hope his Lordship & they ſhould agree: he anſwereth, The agreement is eaſily made if his highnes will raiſe his ſiege, and ſuffer vs (as his poore neighbours) to liue by him in peace. Serano replied, thats not his errand thither, but hopes Que vous ſerez de noſtre bandes, his Lordſhippe (to cutte off further progreſſion in this diſcourſe) tells them after this weari-ſome iourney, it is more fitting to entertaine them with meane refreſhing, then with ſerious expoſtulation, and thervpon intreates them to Supper, whereto they yeilde. And although it were their Chriſtmaſſe euen, and thereby faſting day, they did not forbeare eating fiſh, eggs, and ſuch tonkets, beſides as a towne ſo long beſieged could afford, taking out in Clarret wine what they lacked in meate. Serano drinking for his ſhare aboue fiftie twoo glaſſes of wine, beſides Beere, anſwering euery man in the cuppe, and yet gaue no manner of appearance of yeilding any way to diſtemper. During their ſitting at ſupper, many ſmart teſtes were bandied with good dexteritie on both ſides. Amongſt others, I remember Serano plotting a paſſage by circumſtãce of words, to diſcourſe of their perfect buſines, gaue his Lordſhip occaſion to tell him that his Alteſſe deſired all, and the States would be willingly part with nothing. The Spanyard replyed, that the Archduke demaunded but his owne: to that his L. tolde him, hee had neuer ſtudied the Lawes to Iudge of mens titles, but that in England wee doe commonly holde poſſeſſion, 11 poyntes

of the 12, the lawe is bounden withall, &c. Another was, hys Lordshippe told them, that now his highnes hauing continued his siege with such admiration and fame, as that in this age & compasse of the world, the like hath not bæn heard off, and driuen vs to abandon our outward works, & to retire our selues altogither into our towne, he might with great honour arise & leaue vs, and thereby preuent the ruine of his armie, which through wet lodging, and continuall labour, must nœds be extreamly decayed, and also preuent the effusion of much Christian bloud otherwise.

To this Serano replied, that since his L. had with such honour as was applauded throughout all Christendome, so long preserued this place against so powerfull an enemie, and that as they all knew most certainely, many extremities had ouertaken him, whereby he was enforced to withdrawe himselfe wholly into that little ruinous nest, it could bee no manner of blemish to him to yeild, &c.

Thus eyther of them by contrarie intended imputations laboured to extoll his owne carriage and prayses: many other prompt counterbuffes were passed, which (to auoyde tediousnes) I ouer passe: after supper the Spanyards (wearied with their late myrie iournies) were by his Lordshippe conducted to their lodging, where with a slender guard for fashion sake, before the outwardest dores of the house, they rested til morning. Before which time 2 Shippes of warre laden with 6 companies of Zeland soldiers arriued in the road, before the towne, which the enemie without, seing it, is easily to iudge whether he was offended or no. Whereupon, betimes on the Tuesdaye morning they sent in post for his L. resolution, and Serano himselfe (although ignorant of our supplie) importuned his L. for answere, &c. which he receiues forthwith sounding to this effect, viz.

That it was true that some wants through the long contrarietie of the winde and other accidents had ouertaken him, and thereby he enforced to make vse of his wit, to relieue himselfe by winning of time, till his turne was otherwise serued, and that now since the States had bæne mindfull of him, the

wind

winde prospicious, and his necessitie supplied, he could not in honour procede to trafique with them any further, neither had more to saye to them, vntill a newe extremitie, (if any might happily lay new hold on him) should occasion him thereto, hoping his highnes as a vertuous and worthie Prince would not take it till, that as a martiall man he had practised and compassed the best meanes for the preseruation of his honour and safetie by the ordinarie and vsuall course of men of warre.

The Spaniards (hauing the faire hopes of his fruitfull harnest thus quite blasted with this cold nipping answere) did neuertheless in the most temperate manner he could, smother & suppresse his almost choaking discontent: for hee dreamed by ẏ negotiating of this busines, to haue made himselfe famous to ensuing ages, and so with this cold breake-fast (in stead of his Christmasse pie) he forthwith departed, leauing his companion behind him, till our Captaine should be returned home: his passage backe was by boate at South west from the Polder Kaueling, where he could see almost no part of our fortification, & vpon his repaire into their trenches, Capt. Fairfax was sent home, and the Lieutenant staied, so as they held the more worthy person. About 4 of the clock the same day, Captaine Ogle came to ẏ sands at west against the porte Dupied, accompanied with the great Marshall of the enemies Campe, and with one Owen an English fugitiue, staying for the Spanish Seriant Maior here in towne. ẏe hauing dined with my L. after the duch entertainment was conducted out of towne by Capt. Studder to ẏ same place where Serano had bin formerly imboated. There was a little straining courtie, who should be passed first. But the Lieutenant Colonell stode not much thereupon, although the worthier person and the subiect of a farre more absolute and greater Prince, the reason (as I learned) being because we had bin the petitioners, and to the Spaniard carried it.

This I espetially obserued being present, and seing the acting thereof, as I did also that his L. (although hee speaketh Spanish very redily) did notwithstanding vse onely ẏ French tongue with the twoo Spaniardes, which (all the Duch Captaines

taines vnderstanding) they knewe of all that passed, and therby all iclousie preuented. The truth is, the boate laye on our side where the Spanyard was, and the water then ebbing, caried it with a swift course to the enemies side, so that (as it then appeared) when they had giuen the adiewe on both sides, and Capt. Ogle entred into the boate, the shipps could not returne against the streame, but driuing with the same, landed him on our counterscarp, where he thought best, and here ceased our Iubilie, I call it a Iubilie, for during this cessation of hostilitie, I thinke there issued out of the neighbour enemie townes aboue 2000 Burgers with their wiues, &c. to come to the Archdukes campe, walking vppe and downe the sandes and trenches of the enemie, verie neere the towne, as though we had been all good friends, and so did their soldiers likewise: but ours kept within of purpose to conceale our weaknes, and notwithstanding faith enterchangably giuen to forbeare all violence during the treatie, yet did our whole troupes hold continuall, and generall guardes without relying vpon any promise at all. All this while our workes in the old Towne were aduanced with all diligence, and secresie possible, and made defensible before our Mart ended. Our newe forces landed also this day, betweene 12 and 2 of the clocke in the oulde towne, in despight of the enemies Cannon, without anye more losse then the hurt of the two shippers, & as I can learne of two soldiers, but none killed, nor those mortally wounded.

And yet to giue the enemie his due by saying the full truth, they were more then bountifull of powder and shot, to hinder our mens landing. All this while wee remayned quiet on both sides without shotte little or great, but the next morning (being Wednesday) they first opened the windowes of their wonted displeasure; it being my Lords pleasure, that euerie man in towne should be quiet, till the enemie shoulde giue occasion to the contrarie, and then wee resaluted them with good Cannon, and so all thinges stand on their former frame, all our outward workes repossessed and guarded as

before

before, and so wee liue dayly expecting more supplies from the States, that our poore men maye nowe at last bee refreshed in Holland after their longe and miserable toyle.

Wee haue vnderstoode of late by an Italian gentleman one of their Centinells Perdues, who was brought prisoner into towne, that the Archduke is highly offended with his counsell of warre for diuerting him frō the execution of his resolution, which was to haue attempted vs on the Sondaye night, (so often spoken of before) with 6000 men, &c. that by reason of the extremitie of his passion, fewe of them dare come in his presence, for preuenting his oportunitie by their disswasions: and besides that, he is no lesse displeased to haue bœn so mocked by his Lordship.

For the future, if the States finde themselues able, and haue withall a will to continue the charge, which the defence of this place hath already, and will still drawe vppon them: (the Archduke continuing his siege by relieuing it with competent numbers of well affected soldiers, and other nœdefull prouisions) there is yet no appearance of daunger, nor cause to feare the enemies preuayling: but if they slacke saile, and giue the Duke such an other oportunitie (as hee had nowe of late) they, and all the world besides, may bœ assured hee will make his best vse thereof.

By Cannon there remaineth small hope for him, if the States faile not to send Rise-wood to repaire therewith in the night what hee spoyleth in the day: for, with Rise and sande mingled, we worke chiefly on both sides, we haue alreadye endured aboue 161500 Canonodoes, and yet all our bastions, and defences stil firme and tenable, hauing only their outward faces somewhat discountenanced by the furie of the many shot most of them haue endured, especially the sandhill, which is so forced with bullets, that (our men labouring to driue in spiked pallizadoes) doe often stumble vpon 6 or 8 in one hole togither: and their piles, or pallizadoes often hindred in their entrance by the abundance of bullets lodged in their

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way.

To vndermine vs it is not possible, so lõg as we can hold what wee haue, for to the Landward lie our outworks, to preuent their approches that way, & our other places of passage are washed verie high euery Tide, and so the sea affordeth them little time to worke against vs, where it challengeth passage. Besides this, all our Bulwarks loking towards their trenches are vnited, and prepared for all such accidents.

Then, eyther furie, faction, or famine must open him way, for furie here is little cause of feare, if (as I sayde before) the States can, and will furnish their towne with sufficient nũbers of men.

For faction, the vigilancie, and discretion of the Commander, being a man of sound vnderstanding, trained in this occupation, may easilie breake those impostumations, as hetherto his Lordship hath done, to the great increase of his honour, and better approbation of the soundnes of his iudgement: for the enemie made an English man, one Simon Conisbye, an instrument to worke for him that way: but I presume that Conisbye by the rack, and smart of the whip at the gallowes fot, hath learned a lesson to seeke some other trade to thriue by, and the fellowe was in my charge to kepe, and sounde by questioning, and exposulations, and thereby I knowe the managing of that busines.

And to be famished (vnlesse both the states, and England abandon vs) were verie strange: for (notwithstanding all ẏ batries the enemie hath eyther at East, or West, on the sandes or piles of the ould Hauen, or else where) we haue, when the winde serueth, some nights 40 sailes of Hoyes and Smackes come in togither, and scarse one man hurt. We haue furthermore a new hauen almost redie, where night and day Ships may passe at pleasure. Besides, if both these should faile, the states may (with long boates which they call sloupes) land any thing in the old towne, as they did their Irelande soldiers of late, marie this place serueth only for such small open boates, but for no Hoyes nor Boates of burthen.

And

And so fr for a Conclusion, if the states stand vpon tearmes of honour, and start not aside like a broken bowe (it having bẽ their fashion to grow wearie of such chargeable nurse children, as they tearme it here) you sẽ many apparant probabilities for their holding of this towne against the Archduke, for a longer time then is expected: he will wast himselfe before it, & yet all the charge of his armis and of all prouisions is borne by the country, who haue, and doe still furnish him verie plentifull with all necessaries. Besides, the recouerie of this towne would be so beneficiall vnto him, and such ease to his subiects, as they haue good reason to trie their vttermost meanes to carrie it: for besides, that it would absolutely frẽ all ỹ sea coasts, and country within of roads, and incursions, wherewith they are exceedingly infested by this towne, and withall giue the Archduke good conuenientie for the lodging of his gallies and other shipping with little cost. It would enable him to bring at the least 6000 men more into the field yearely, then he now doth or can. For hee is constrained to hold many guarrisons in shonses builded heere and there in the land, to block vp this towne, which require many men for their defence, and draw on for their wages, and by fortification, &c. a mightie charge. These men, & charges I say, if he could preuaile here, would bee conuerted to other vses, and a spacious countrie of fertile ground now ouer-flowed, and seruing to no vse, in few yeares wholly recouered and made profitable, and all contributions (which the feare of this guarrison enforceth) from the Boores quite cut off.

As I was about the shutting vpp of this tedious and ill digested discourse, Newes came that the Archduke hath now at last pacified, and reconciled all his mutinous soldiers which haue bẽ long time in Brabant, as at Derst, Herentalls and other places thereabouts, holding for none but for themselues (their discontent growing from want of pay, which it semeth the Duke hath not giuen them contentment of.) And that those forces being neere 5000, and marching this way to reenforce the enemies Campe, and to force vs if they can, the blue, time will bring forth. Meane time, with most humble

remembrance of dutie to your worship, beseeching the Almigh-tie ever to bless and prosper you (begging pardon for this cr-reame tediousnes) I take leave. From Ost-end this Saint Stevens day after the old stile 1601. scribed in hast for the most part by candle light.

His Lordship (to leave no stone of advantage vnremoved) causeth every soldier to come doubly, armed to the watch, eve-rie Musketier bring-ng withall a Pike, and every armed man carrying a musket, to serve with eyther as neede shall occa-sion.

His owne travailes (vnlesse he had a body of brasse, being continued any long time) must needes drawe him into sicknes for there passe fewe nights, wherein hee walketh not abroad, or watcheth not the most part thereof, and in the day time hee is so continually possessed with busines, that he hath no time to sleepe, and fewe men feede more sparingly. All these bal-lanced togither will confirme I doubt no lesse then I say.

The declaration of the desparate attempt made since, by the sayde Archdukes forces, for winning of the ould Towne.

THe Archduke Albertus knowing howe acceptable the newes of this parle would be to al his friends, forgat not presently to write thereof into Germanie, Spaine, and Italie, declaring vnto them hys great good hope within sewe dayes, to possesse the stronge towne of Ost-end, but after he had found his hope thus deluded, (as is before sayde) was kindled with greater wrath against the towne then at any time before. And hereupon fell to counsell with his Collonels and Captaines, what course he might best take in this so waighty a cause, and reuenge this mockerie done to him and his whole estate. After much reasonning and debating (contrarie to the opinion of some of his best approued, Captaines, and Councellors) it was concluded, that withall his forces, a desperate attempt should be made at one instant, as well vpon the trenches and counterscarps without the towne, as vpon the ould Hauen, for the winning of the ould towne, or at the least wise of the sand-hill: The order of which enterprise with the day, and time being nowe resolued vpon, such Wallons, Germaines, & others as had before mutined in diuers places, were with money pacified and commaunded to the Campe, Ladders, Shouels, Spades, Pickaxes, and all other necessaries were prouided.

In the meane time the Archduke (to helpe the errour of his former writing, & perswading himselfe that the towne should not be able to withstād ẏ furie of this forcible enterprise) sent

posts into all places (as before) advertising his friends againe of this resolution, and that he made no doubt, but within ten or fourteen dayes to haue the towne at his commaund.

On Monday therefore, being the xviij. day of December last An. 1601, being the day appointed for this great attempt, An Italian (who was among the rest appointed in ẏ first ranks to begin this charge, at the ould Hauen, and knowing the action to be most desperate, and therefore smale hope left him euer to returne with his life) fled from the enemies Campe, and with his Rapier in his mouth swome into the Hauen, and being receaued into the towne, declared vnto the Lord Generall, that the same day about 3 of the clock in the after-noone, when the water was ebbed from the walls, the enemie would with all his forces make his attempt both at the ould Hauen, and at ẏ works without the towne with ten Thousand men, and that he was fled thither, to saue his life as is before sayd: declaring farther, that it was resolued to renue the assault the two nert daies following, & affirmed that if they were the first day valiantly repulsed, there was no doubt to be had that the soldiers would bee brought to the like banquet the other two daies.

Sir Francis Veare (iudging before that the enemie had some such intent, by reason that he did all the same day as in ẏ night before continue shooting against the Sand-hill and port Dupiced) had alredie giuen order to the Captaines for the manning of the walls, trenches, and Counterscarps, and caused peces of Ordinance to be remoued, and planted 7 great murthering peces vpon the entrance of the Hauen, which were well laden with square and musket shot, not omitting any thinge that a wise and vigilant Commander ought in so waighty a cause to foresee, incouraging his people to play the parts of good soldiers, and to bestow their shot well, and among the thickest of the enemies when they should make their approach.

When the houre appointed was come, and the water fallen, as is before written, the enemie marched towardes the ould Hauen 40 men abreast, the formost rancks carried Shouels, Spades, and Pick-axes, the nert carried Ladders, after them followed Targets, armed men, and Muskets, all marched

forward

forward with such resolution, as if they had made accompt to haue found no resistance at all, but they were as gallantly, & with like corages receaued, & at al places answered with losse of their best blood, as well without the towne, as at the old Hauen, where the murthering peeces caused the enemies to fall, as rotten ripe apples from the trees in a mighty storme. And although they could not enter the hauen, but they must goe in water vp to the knees, they pressed forward, and those which came behind, put forward the formost: But sodenly (as sir Francis Veere had before ordained) twoo sluces were opened, the one giuing way to the land waters, and the other to the waters of the ditches about the towne, by reason whereof many of the enemies (not able to keepe their foting) were drowned, and the others stode in water vp to their Paucls, so that their shot serued to no vse, for ý their pouder was hereby wet, but were forced to fight with their swords and rapiers: the fight continued on both sides with great furie, and resolution, vntill the darknes of the euening forced them to retire, whereof they were not a little glad, for the slaughter was verie great on the enemies side, most Wallons, Dutches and other Nations to the number of 1500, besides many that were wounded. Many of the enemies had made prouision of bread and cheese tyed behind them to their girdles with a peece of match, thinking therwith to help themselues for a day or two (if nede should so require) after they had gotten the sand hill as they made full accompt, and there to secure themselues from the shot of the towne for a time, vntill they might with greater force and opportunitie obtaine the ould towne. In this assault at all places, there were not aboue 40 of the towne souldiers slaine and hurt: the Lords name be blessed therefore.

In this assault the enemies horsemen were appointed to follow the footmen at the heeles, and were commanded by the Duke not to suffer them to retire, but to force thē still forward on their enterprise, which they forgot not to accomplish: but as it should seeme not altogither with their owne securitie, for some of the horses with their saddells and bridels haue since been taken vp at Sluce, Flushing, West-cappell, and other

places of Zeland, as it pleased the winde and waues to driue them.

The Lord Generall slept little the nighte following, but was busied in fortifying and repairing such places as needing to the time was requisite, doubting least ỳ enemie would the nert day renue his attempt, wherunto the Archduke wanted not any good will, but could not preuaile with his soldiers to visite so vnkinde an host: Yet such as came lately out of Flaunders report that ỳ Archduke had appointed vpon Tuesday last past being the xij. day of this moneth of Ianuarie to giue a newe assault vpon the towne withall his forces, and to that end had prouided 2000 armors of proofe. But the enemies souldiers vnwilling to come to so desperate an attempt, haue denyed there service, so that a mutinie is growne in the enemies Campe, 200 and odde are already apprehended & some of the ring-leaders executed, whereof wee shall shortly heare further.

In the meane time let all good Christians prayse God for these his wonderfull victories, and with humble and hearty prayer without ceasing, desire him to continue these his louing fauours towardes his poore afflicted Church. And contrarywise to confound and ouerthrowe all the deseings of this obstinate and blood-thirstie Archduke, with all others his adherents and partakers, who seek and practise all meanes possible (as Wolues both by day and night) to deuoure, and shedde the bloud of the little flocke of Iesus Christ, Amen.

FINIS.